

have achieved, and want to share their achievements so that more people benefit from their accomplishments. I ask that a summary of Mesa Verde Middle School's superior work be included in the record:

Mesa Verde Middle School, located in Rancho Penasquitos, a suburb of northern San Diego, California, exemplifies the educational heights that can be attained when a solid partnership exists between school and community. All members of this team are completely committed to their philosophy of "doing everything possible to help each student succeed", while maintaining strong academic integrity. Their school vision for 2002 states that "Mesa Verde Middle School will create an enhanced learning experience and a unique community environment for all students." The success of Mesa Verde's rigorous curriculum is evidenced by consistently high performance on standardized tests and underscored by earning the maximum six-year Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation. Among their noteworthy accomplishments are two wellness programs. Mesa Verde's wellness budget enables them to have a teacher on special assignment (TOSA), devoting a full period each day to drug, alcohol, and tobacco prevention education. The second program, "Names Can Really Hurt You" was nationally recognized in Washington D.C. and fosters tolerance of diversity in the classroom and on campus. A 50% drop in negative name calling infractions best illustrates the success of this program.

Mesa Verde provides an excellent education to culturally and ethnically diverse middle class population. Their site is designed to accommodate students with a wide range of academic abilities and physical challenges. Designed with technology in mind, Mesa Verde has become Poway Unified School District's model school. Four computer labs are housed at Mesa Verde and each classroom is networked to the Internet and e-mail. A distinct feature of the campus is the village concept design. Classrooms are grouped together and house a single grade level.

And added strength of Mesa Verde is the varied "safety nets" in place to ensure that students progress and succeed socially as well as academically. Innovative programs such as Peer Mediation, Natural Helpers, Eagle Groups, and Student Outreach Services (SOS) teach students to deal effectively with their emotional needs and to interact successfully with their peers. A commitment to excellence is the cornerstone for all of Mesa Verde's programs. Providing excellence in all they do, Mesa Verde is exemplified by a dedicated, hardworking staff, who truly love children. They base all decisions on what is best for their students. The entire school community: staff, students, parents and community, works together to provide the best possible education for all students.

#### 2000 PARALYMPICS

#### HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2000

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, as the eyes of the world are fixed on Sydney, Australia, and the games of the 27th Olympiad, I rise to

ask this House to glance closer to home, to Western New York, to share in an inspiring story of personal triumph and the spirit of athletic competition.

On Wednesday, September 20, 2000, friends and supporters will gather at the Rochester Yacht Club to lend their support to sailors Keith Burhans, Paul Callahan and Richard Hughes and their quest for gold at the 2000 Paralympics to be held next month in Sydney, Australia.

Burhans of Monroe County lost both legs in a 1995 boating accident. Callahan, of Newport, Rhode Island, has been a quadriplegic since college. And Hughes is an amputee from Philadelphia. The three formed a world-class team that finished second in last year's World Disabled Sailing Championship.

But their story is even greater than their ability to tack around the tetrahedrons faster than their competitors. They have used their personal experiences to teach others to overcome barriers and test their limits.

Callahan reorganized and became CEO of the Shake-A-Leg program for the disabled in Newport. And Burhans joined the board of the Rochester Rehabilitation Center, which organizes SportsNet, a similar program that allows those with physical disabilities to participate in the able-bodied sports world.

In what became the first race of one of the oldest competitions in sport, the America's Cup, a young Queen Victoria watched as the yacht "America" plowed across the finish line. When she asked her courtier to search the sea and identify which boat was second, he took a long look through his telescope and replied: "Your majesty, I regret to report, there is no second."

To Keith Burhans, Paul Callahan and Richard Hughes, I am pleased to report that your personal courage, your triumph over adversity, and your devotion to athletic competition has already made each of you, like the 1851 crew of the "America," a winner.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this House of Representatives join me in saluting the achievements of these three extraordinary men, and that we further extend to them the best of luck at the games of the 2000 Paralympics.

#### IN HONOR OF RUSSELL BINNEY

#### HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2000

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a man who positively influenced the lives of many people. Earlier this month, Mr. Russell Binney of Ulysses, Kansas passed away. Russ fulfilled many important roles in his life—each of them with integrity, compassion, and dedication.

Russ proudly served his country in the United States Navy during World War II and as a lifelong member of the American Legion. Upon returning to Ulysses, he founded Binney Better Foods, Inc. For more than 40 years, Russ and his wife Virginia provided retail grocery service to the citizens of Grant County. In that time, Russ's business experienced and adapted to change. However, one thing remained constant: Russ's commitment to providing a quality product with first-rate customer service.

Russ served his community in additional ways. He was past president of the Ulysses Rotary Club and earlier this year received the Rotary 2000 Distinguished Service Award. Russ was a leader and former chairman of the Grant County Republican Party. He was a member and elder of the Shelton Memorial Christian Church. His devoted involvement in Gideon International strengthened his faith. In 1990, Russ' friends and neighbors recognized his many years of accomplished service by selecting him as the Grant County Citizen of the Year.

I have walked Main streets of many Kansas communities. In Ulysses, my objective was always to walk the business district with Russ Binney. Everyone liked you if you were with Russ. Always a smile and handshake for the men and a kiss for the women. He brightened everyone's day. No person in any Kansas town ever received a warmer reception than when Russ met one of his customers or neighbors.

Most important to Russ was his family. Over the course of their 54 years together, he and Virginia raised their son Cary and daughters Janet, Rhonda, and Tammy. They also devoted endless love and attention to seven grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Russell fulfilled many important roles in his life—each of them with integrity, compassion, and dedication. I join his many friends and admirers in extending my deepest sympathies to Virginia and her family during their time of loss.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1654, NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AU- THORIZATION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

#### HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2000

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express very serious concerns about this legislation that we are considering on the floor today. Section 205 of this conference report prematurely directs NASA—and I stress the word "directs"—to establish a nongovernmental organization to manage microgravity research and commercialization activities aboard the International Space Station.

Mr. Speaker, in this Body the International Space Station does not have a stronger supporter than myself. While I sat on the Science Committee, I fought to fence-off microgravity research funds from hardware cost overruns and preserve the benefits of the Station for our taxpayers. Year after year, I'm on this floor defending the Space Station against various wounding and killing amendments. But I'm concerned that unless we're careful, this language in Section 205 may move the taxpayer investments in Space Station backwards, rather than forwards.

This language was not considered during the normal House subcommittee or full committee markup process, but was added into the bill in conference. The House hasn't held any hearings on this matter. It's not even clear to me where NASA will get the funding for this initiative. What will happen to the government